The Citizen

BLACKBURN, DARWEN AND HYNDBURN

Wednesday, September 7, 2011 | The **local** newspaper for our community | blackburncitizen.co.uk

IN YOUR LANCASHIRE TELEGRAPH ON FRIDAY

WIN RYANAIR FLIGHTS

DAY 5: FLIGHTS TO GDANSK TO BE WON

In class of its own

£25million school to open doors

By NAFEESA SHAN

Here is the first look around the new £25million school which has kick-started the transformation of education in Blackburn with Darwen.

The new Pleckgate High School Mathematics and Computing College, Blackburn, boasts an indoor-outdoor winter garden with palm trees, which is set in the middle of the school.

There is also a 100-seater outdoor amphitheatre, panoramic views around Blackburn, a 360-seater theatre and dance studio, eco-friendly features, as well as endless technology and lighting.

And, according to headteacher Robin Campbell, this 'great environment', which brings the school into the 21st century, has left staff 'incredibly excited' as they unpack 2,700 crates.

The school will welcome its first students at 8.30am tomorrow for the staggered opening.

The school was created under Blackburn with Darwen Council's £203million Building Schools for the Future, BSF, scheme.

All of the borough's secondary schools are being rebuilt, or re-modelled.

Classrooms that can be extended, a music studio, fingerprint technology to top up the cashless catering machines, a gym, a sports hall, a bubble roof similar to those seen at the Eden Project, in Cornwall, and the Chinese Olympic swimming pool add a futuristic look to the school.

The school is spread over two floors and has been colour coded and divided into themed sections.

They are activity, which is yellow and covers PE, music, drama and media; turquoise for creativity where art and technology are taught; lime green in the discovery area for science and maths; and orange for global, which incorporates English, modern languages, geography, history and RE.

Mr Campbell said: "To say everybody at the school is incredibly excited would be a massive understatement.

"Students and staff have been building up to this moment for a long time and it is even more thrilling to be the very first BSF school to open in the borough," he added.

Coun Maureen Bateson, the council's executive member for children's services, said: "The doors opening on the new Pleckgate school is the fruition of many years of hard work."

Student numbers will increase from 1,190 to 1,350, and extra students will be arriving from Beardwood Humanities College, which is due to close in 2012.

EXCITING FUTURE: Headteacher Robin Campbell and Coun Maureen Bateson in the winter garden. Far left, one of the art rooms. Left, the exterior of the school

TV's 'Real Deal' heads to E Lancs

Flamboyant antiques expert David Dickinson is heading to East Lancashire this weekend filming for his ITV show, Dickinson's Real Deal.

STORY 3

IN HI-DE-HI SPIRITS

Bubbly Su Pollard, who became a household name in hit comedies Hi-de-Hi and You Rang M'Lord, is returning to Lancashire to star in the award-winning musical Annie.

LEISURE 12-13

Sights set on relaxing

Darwen Mayoress Ruth Browne, who has bowed out after 29 years as an eye nurse, will be relaxing and enjoying her retirement with husband Paul.

STORY 6

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Citizen In brief

Chapel window to be dedicated

A dedication ceremony for a new Unity Chapel window at St Peter's Church, Darwen, will be held on Sunday, September 18, at 10.30am.

Guests will include **the Bishop of Blackburn, the Rt Rev Nicholas Reade**, the mayor of Blackburn with Darwen, Coun Karimeh Foster, and Darwen MP Jake Berry.

Follow the leader

Hyndburn Borough Council is calling on young people to be 'leader for a day' – and shadow Coun Miles Parkinson.

Coun Parkinson said: "We've launched the competition as part of Local Democracy Week and it's open to all 14 to 16-year-olds."

Air concerns with MP

Blackburn MP Jack Straw is holding surgeries on Friday, September 9, at Ivy Street Community Centre, from 2.30pm to 3.30pm, and at Audley Community Centre, from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. No appointment needed.

Real Deal TV show heads to E Lancs

By TYRONE MARSHALL

TV personality David Dickinson is heading to East Lancashire in search of some real 'bobby dazzlers'.

The flamboyant antiques expert, known as The Duke to his legions of fans, will be filming for his ITV show, Dickinson's Real Deal, at Pendle Leisure Centre, in Colne, on Saturday, September 10.

It is the second time in less than a year that the show has come to East Lancashire, after being filmed in Darwen last November, and more East Lancashire venues could be chosen by show producers.

A spokesman for Pendle Leisure Trust said: "Just take along your prized possessions to Pendle Leisure Centre, in Crown Way, Colne, between 9am and 5pm and see how much you can get for them.

"As usual, David will be keeping an eye on the deals and giving advice if needed – should you take the dealers' cash, or gamble at auction?

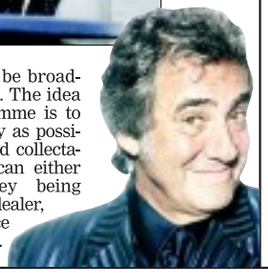
"Ultimately, it's up to you to decide which option is the Real Deal.

HOST: David Dickinson at Darwen Library Theatre on his last visit to the area

"So, do you have something that could turn out to be as 'cheap as chips' or 'a bit of a duffer'?

"Or are you in possession of 'a real bobby dazzler'?"

The show, where anyone can turn up with unwanted antiques and leave at the end of the day with cash in their pocket, is to be broadcast at a later date. The idea behind the programme is to get as much money as possible for antiques and collectables. Participants can either accept the money being offered from the dealer, or take their chance in the auction room.



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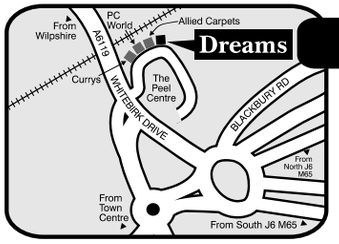

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Citizen In brief

Pizzas prize

Beverley Leek, of Blackburn, celebrates with daughter Rebecca after winning her height in Asda Chosen By You pizzas in a Facebook competition.

Top bargains

A table-top sale will be held at Antley Methodist Church, Accrington, on September 24, between 9am and 1pm. Tables cost £6 on 01254 233924.

PACT meeting

A Police and Community Together meeting will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday, September 29, at Oswaldtwistle Community Church, Union Road.

Reds' goal to help hospice

By NEIL DOCKING

Accrington Stanley will be teaming up with East Lancashire Hospice this season.

The club has announced the move as part of the Football League's official charity partnership with the Help the Hospices campaign.

Stanley will support the hospice in its general fundraising efforts.

And the League Two side is also backing the Raise the Roof appeal by our sister newspaper the Lancashire Telegraph.

The campaign, which aims to raise £125,000 to build a new roof over the inpatients unit in Park Lee Road, Blackburn, has now reached £75,000.

Sharon Crymble, hospice fundraising manager, said: "Like in football, you never know what is around the corner in life, and you never know when you, or someone you know, might need hospice care. With Accrington Stanley's support, we can continue to help local people who are coping with a life-limiting illness. Hospice care is free for everyone who needs it, but it is not free to provide.

"Accrington Stanley will raise vital funds for the hospice by organising collections at matches and taking part in challenge events."

Rob Heys, Accrington Stanley chief executive, said: "East Lancashire Hospice is a popular cause and one that we have supported for many years, albeit indirectly through the fundraising efforts of local people.

"We are looking forward to taking this a step further and working closely alongside the hospice."

TEAM: From left, Stanley's Nat Taylor, Sharon Crymble, from the hospice, Stanley chief executive Rob Heys, and midfielder Ian Craney

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FOND FAREWELL: Darwen mayoress Ruth Browne says goodbye to her hospital duties

Ruth eyes up a happy retirement

By CATHERINE PYE

The Mayoress of Darwen has hung up her hospital uniform after 29 years as an eye nurse.

Ruth Browne, of Greenway Steet, began as an auxiliary nurse in the ophthalmology department of Blackburn Royal Infirmary after being made redundant from her job at a Darwen engineering company.

The 65-year-old grandmother-of-two has worked in theatres, clinics and, in later years, specialised in field tests for peripheral vision.

In 2007, she was awarded the prize for Health Assistant of the Year at the hospital.

She marked her last working day with a buffet with colleagues.

She said: "I have loved every minute of being at the hospital.

"There's not been a morning where I haven't wanted to get up and go to work.

"It was very sad to leave because I've made such good friends and I love the patients.

"My motto has always been: 'Treat your patients as you would like your own family to be treated'.

"You've got to have a lot of dedication and be a caring person to do that job."

She added: "I would have worked until I was in my 70s, or 80s, if I could have done.

" I left that hospital feeling like a very loved person."

Mrs Browne now hopes to relax and enjoy her retirement with her husband Paul, carrying out mayoral engagements in Darwen until May.

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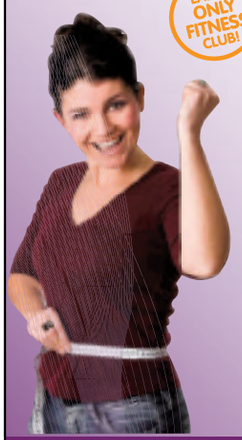

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Update on Tower dome posted online

Updates on the progress of Darwen Tower's new dome have been posted online.

Photographs and videos are available on the Facebook page of WEC Academy showing first-year apprentices fabricating the stainless steel base and frame of the dome.

The dome, which is being produced free of charge by the company, based in Junction Street, Darwen, is expected to be ready by the end of next month.

Gales of up to 80mph tore the previous fibreglass dome off in the early hours of Novermber 12, and there was a public outcry to repair it as soon as possible.

Darwen Town Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council had agreed to jointly pay for the work, before the donation by WEC Group.

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Closure of M65

Major resurfacing work will see sections of the M65 shut next week.

Damaged parts of the motorway near Accrington, as well as between Burnley and Brierfield, are to be repaired.

Both lanes will be closed between Junctions 10 and 12, from 7pm to 5am, from Monday, September 12, for two weeks. And 1.5miles of the motorway will be resurfaced between Junctions 7 and 8 in a six-week scheme, beginning on Saturday, September 10.

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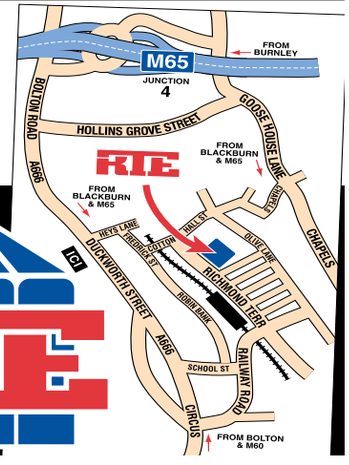

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A silly cycle for charities

By TYRONE MARSHALL

Eight madcap pals from East Lancashire pedalled 50 miles to raise £1,000 for charity – all on the same bike!

The group, who all dressed as martians from children's TV show Sesame Street, cycled around Edinburgh on a unique eight-seater dubbed the 'Conference bike'.

Adam Booth, a marketing executive at Thornton Sports, based on Altham Industrial Estate, came up with the idea to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and a leukaemia charity in Sheffield.

He said: "We all wanted to do something different to raise money for charity so I looked at eight-seater bikes and came across this.

"It was a great day, but it was very hard work.

"The bike weighs 34 stone and when all of us were on, it weighed over a tonne.

"When it came to any small hills it was almost impossible to keep it moving."

MONEY-SPINNER: The friends on the eight-seater bike

It took the group eight hours to complete the charity bike ride before they headed home on the train.

Four of the friends work at Thornton Sports, and they live in Blackburn, Burnley, Darwen and Clitheroe.

Adam said: "We wanted to raise money for a smaller charity as well, and somebody from the Memorial Trust in Sheffield rang Thornton Sports asking about a project they were working on.

"They want to build a halfway house for patients to use before, during, and after, treatement. It seemed like a good idea to support them."

To sponsor theteam, visit www.justgiving.com/conferencebikechellenge

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Dementia services in E Lancs

New services for people with dementia are springing up across East Lancashire.

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Memory Assessment Service has begun monthly gatherings at cafes.

The events are where people with dementia, their family members, or carers, can gain information.

There are currently cafés being held in Nelson and Great Harwood, and groups in Blackburn and Rossendale start in September. There are also plans in place for a group that will meet in Burnley.

Sandra Nuttall said: "We hope that the Dementia Cafés will show people that there is life after a diagnosis of dementia, that there are people who can help and that, as someone with dementia, you can continue to offer help and support to others."

For more details, visit www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk

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Funeral home plan for ex-pub

By EMMA CRUCES

A former mayor is planning to transform an Oswaldtwistle pub into a funeral home.

Paul Barton, who was mayor of the borough from 2009 to 2010, is hoping to bring the Foxhill Pub, in Union Road, back into use, after it closed in July.

The former Woodnook councillor says that if he is successful in gaining planning permission, the building will be changed with a refurbishment costing £100,000.

If all goes well, Paul and his wife Sarah, the former mayoress, hope to begin operating the new business in six to eight weeks.

The plan to start their own funeral service is one the couple had hoped to put into practice a year ago. However, a serious car accident meant the idea had to be put on hold.

Paul, from Oswaldtwistle, suffered head, neck, back, chest, arm and leg injuries in a smash on the way to a mayoral engagement at King George's Hall, Blackburn.

Sarah and mayor's attendant Jayne Carmody suffered whiplash. The father-of-two remained in hospital for some time.

He said he was now hoping to put his years of experience in the funeral service into practice and bring a key building back into use. He said: "I have worked in the business for 15 years for other people and it is an interesting and rewarding job. You meet a lot of very unique people. In the past there have been many times I've been on call and someone has lost a loved one and needed things sorting out for them.

"We are going through the planning process now to change the use of the building. I'm pleased that it will bring an empty building back into use, because it's in such an important location."

KEY BUILDING: Former mayor and mayoress Paul and Sarah Barton outside the Foxhill Pub

Policing matters

A Police and Community Together meeting will be held at Mill Hill Community Centre, in New Chapel Street, Blackburn, from 6.30pm on Wednesday, September 14.

Citizen In brief

Andrew appeals for rubber bands

Blackburn teenager Andrew Page urgently needs elastic bands for his world record attempt. The 15-year-old is hoping to create a ball measuring three feet in diameter, weighing 15 kilograms. Visit his website www.elasticbands.webs.com

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CitizenTime

'Some songs I won't give away'

Skylar Grey, 25, who has written songs for some of the biggest names in the music business, is now focusing on her own albums. Originally from Wisconsin, she releases her debut UK single Invisible on September 26.

60 SECONDS WITH ... SKYLAR GREY

YOU'VE PLAYED UK FESTIVALS NOW. HOW DO CROWDS HERE DIFFER TO THE US?
I think fans here are a little bit more intense in the way they want to get photos after the gigs and things. At V Festival, the people were so energised, and there were a lot of people in one place. The festival scene here is definitely more popular.

WHEN DID YOU START WRITING THE SONGS FOR YOUR ALBUM?
About 18 months ago. I wrote Love The Way You Lie for Eminem and Rihanna, which was the first song of the batch. Final Warning was around the same time. Invisible, I Need A Doctor, which I recorded with Dr Dre and Eminem, they were all around then too. Then in January I switched focus to making my own album and started writing verses. Basically I'd written all these hooks, but I needed to write full songs. Some hooks I just couldn't give away.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE AWAY? IS IT HARD?
No, because it's such a thrill to hear something I've written sung by Rihanna. I'm also grateful for her doing it, because it was part of the reason the song was so massive. It really opened a lot more doors for me.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WRITING SONGS?
I wrote my first song when I was seven. It didn't have any words, and I played it at the first piano recital I ever gave. It was called The Whale Song, because I was obsessed with whales.

What's on

theatre

TRANSLUNAR PARADISE — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Thursday, September 8 to Saturday, September 10.
FUNNY MONEY – Chorley Little Theatre, Monday, September 12 to Saturday, September 17.
DANGEROUS CORNER — New Millenium Theatre, Waterfoot, Saturday, September 17 to Saturday, September 24.
WE ARE THREE SISTERS — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Tuesday, September 20 to Saturday, September 24.
THE MYTH OF ESCAPE — Civic Arts Centre, Oswaldtwistle, Wednesday, September 21.

gigs

THE RAPTURE — Manchester Academy, Wednesday, September 7.
UKELELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Thursday, September 8.
OWL CITY — Manchester Academy, Thursday, September 8.
PJ HARVEY — Manchester Apollo, Thursday, September 8.
ROBYN — Manchester Academy, Friday, September 9.
MIDDLE FINGER SALUTE — The Live Lounge, Blackburn, Friday, September 9.
THE BLUETONES — Manchester Academy, Saturday, September 10.
THE CUSH — The Live Lounge, Blackburn, Saturday, September 10.
DOLLY PARTON — MEN Arena, Sunday, September 11.

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Holland Damp Proofing managing director Evert De Graaf answers your questions about damp and his unique system to treat it.

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How does your system work?
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What are the advantages of using this system over more traditional chemical damp proofing?
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Su's in Hi-de-Hi spirits

By JEMMA HUMPHREYS

STAGE STAR: Su as Miss Hannigan in the musical Annie.

Wearing odd shoes and in especially high spirits, even by her standards, bubbly Su Pollard can't hide her excitement about heading up north for her latest role.

She's returning to Lancashire, her favourite part of the UK (because of the nightlife), to star in the award-winning musical Annie.

The timeless tale of Little Orphan Annie returns to The Palace Theatre, Manchester, and The Grand Theatre, Blackpool, as part of its final tour.

Su, who became a household name after starring in hit comedies Hi-de-Hi and You Rang M'Lord, makes a return to her role as the cruel and crooked Miss Hannigan.

BUBBLY: Zany Su Pollard

Naming the role as a career highlight, Su revealed it's the social scene in towns she'll be visiting that she's most looking forward to.

"That's why I'm wearing odd shoes for the launch," she said. "I was so excited about dressing up for the occasion that I couldn't decide what to wear, so I wore both. So long as the heels are the same height it's fine. In fact, I think it's better!"

Su, known for her outrageous fashion sense, is already planning her outfits for hitting the nightspots when the tour visits the region in November. "I'm the social secretary for the cast. I'll be planning trips to the Gay Village in Manchester, and Blackpool we'll just go all over — you're spoiled for choice. It's a lot of hard work this show, but when you finish you can't just go home to bed. You're on a high, so it's time to party."

■ **ANNIE — The Grand Theatre, Blackpool, November 22 to 26 (01253 290190) and The Palace Theatre, Manchester, November 8 to 12 (box office 0844 847 2277).**

Cinema round-up

THE ART OF GETTING BY (12A) Touching coming-of-age story about a student (Freddie Highmore) who doesn't see any point in completing class assignments.

APOLLO 18 (15) A science fiction horror, set on the moon, styled as found footage a la The Blair Witch Project and Paranormal Activity.

FRIGHT NIGHT 3D (15) Geeky teen Ed (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) warns best friend (Anton Yelchin) that the hunky drifter who has moved in next-door is a vampire.

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First time buyers in the North West can now benefit from a brand new shared equity scheme, First Buy. Barratt Manchester has announced that hundreds of local households who have previously been priced out of home ownership will be able to take advantage of the Central Government money to buy a property of their own.

The funds are part of a new scheme called FirstBuy which the Chancellor announced in the Budget in March. It is designed to give First Time Buyers a route to home ownership at the lowest possible cost and with the lowest possible deposit.

Under FirstBuy, buyers will be offered a loan of up to 20 per cent of the price of the property, jointly funded by Barratt Manchester and the Government's Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The buyers then have to find the remaining 80 per cent of the price themselves. Up to 75 per cent of this could be a mortgage, leaving a deposit of just five per cent.

Homes currently available from Barratt Manchester under the FirstBuy scheme in your area include a stunning range of homes at Eccleston Park.

Home of the week at Eccleston Park is plot 69, the desirable mid mews Patterdale.

This home features a light and airy open plan lounge and a fully fitted contemporary kitchen complete with oven, hob and extractor fan. The rear garden is accessed via beautiful French doors from the kitchen, which allow even more light into this exquisite home. A storage area, ideal as a cloakroom and extra washroom facilities located within the entrance hall are a convenient addition to the ground floor.

The first floor presents a stunning master bedroom as well as spacious bedrooms two, three and four, which make use of an attractive colour coordinated family bathroom.

The Patterdale has an incredible list price of only £161,495. When bought in conjunction with FirstBuy, this fantastic family home could be yours for an incredible £122,736 and a low deposit of just £6,459! Barratt now fit double glazing and energy efficient heating as standard in all their homes, and you can rest assured as all of their homes come with a ten year NHBC warranty.

Sales Advisor Charlotte will be delighted to discuss with you how easily and affordably you can move into a new Barratt home. The on-site sales office is open five days a week between 10.30am and 5.30pm and you can call Charlotte now on 07899 958496.

Alternatively you can contact Barratt's Central Sales Team on 0844 811 7799 or visit www.barratthomes.co.uk where you can view 360 degree visual tours of the stunning homes available and find out more information on our amazing range of home buying schemes.

For advice and guidance on your mortgage arrangements please contact Acumen Independent Financial Advisors on 0161 688 1111 seven days a week.

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moan, groan, moan.
Four grand borrowed over 4 year is
£98-32. Times 48,
"Oh i'm sooo good to you!"

TO CLEAR
The following cars are sold with a 12 month MOT serviced and with 1 months parts and labour warranty on all components

06 (56) FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 1.8 DIESEL; 52,000 miles, gold, sliding door, cargo lining, roller roof rack ... £3,999+VAT
06 (06) CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 DIESEL VAN; 59,000 miles, white ... £3,990+VAT
05 (55) VAUXHALL COMBO VAN 1.3; white, only 24,000 miles, well worth seeing ... £3,990+VAT
05 (05) FIAT DIABLO 1.9 DIESEL; 1 owner , FSH, 55,000 miles, silver ... £3,990
05 (54) FORD FOCUS C-MAX 1.8 GHIA; black, 46,000 miles, expected this weekend ... £4,490
04 (54) NISSAN ALMERA; 1.5 SE; 5 door, silver, 1 owner, 39,000 miles, FSH, parking sensor ... £3,990
04 (04) RENAULT LAGUNA 1.6 DYNAMIQUE; 5 door, bright blue metallic, 36,000 miles, service history ... £3,990
03 (53) FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX; black, 5 door, 43,000 miles ... £3,990
03 (53) FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC; 5 door, metallic blue, only 26,000 miles ... £3,690
03 (53) HONDA JAZZ 1.4 SE; 5 door, 49,000 miles, metallic blue, well worth seeing ... £3,990
03 (53) FORD FOCUS 1.6 SALOON; silver, low mileage ... £3,290
03 (03) PEUGEOT 307 NAPIER; private reg sold with car (P6 AHG), 3 door, metallic gold ... £2,890
02 (52) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRi; 5 door, metallic blue, 59,000 miles, alloys, rear spoiler ... £2,490
02 (52) FORD ESCORT 1.8 DIESEL VAN; only 20,000 miles, interior tool racking system, silver ... £2,990+VAT
02 (02) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6 SPORT; silver, 44,000 miles ... £2,990
02 (02) MITSUBISHI SPACESTAR 1.9 DIESEL; 60,000 miles, metallic blue ... £2,290
01 (Y) VW POLO 1.4 SE; 3 door, silver, service history, well worth seeing ... £2,490

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Representative example:

Cash Price	£6495	Interest charges	£1200
Customer deposit	£99	Total amount payable	£7893.80
260 weekly payments of	£29.88	Fixed rate of interest	4.9%
Term of agreement	60 months	Representative APR	9.9%

2008 REG Vauxhall Zafira — Cash Price & Total Payable £5495 | Customer Deposit NIL | 260 Weekly Payments of £21.13 — 5 Years 0%APR

2008 REG Ford Fiesta — Cash Price & Total Payable £3995 | Customer Deposit NIL | 260 Weekly Payments of £15.36 — 5 Years 0%APR

08 REG Ford Focus — Cash Price & Total Payable £4995 | Customer Deposit NIL | 260 Weekly Payments of £19.21 — 5 Years 0%APR

09 REG Vauxhall Astra — Cash Price & Total Payable £5495 | Customer Deposit NIL | 260 Weekly Payments of £21.13 — 5 Years 0%APR

08 REG Ford Mondeo — Cash Price & Total Payable £6995 | Customer Deposit NIL | 260 Weekly Payments of £26.90 — 5 Years 0%APR

09 REG Fiat Bravo — Cash Price & Total Payable £6995 | Customer Deposit NIL | 260 Weekly Payments of £26.90 — 5 Years 0%APR

58 REG Peugeot 207 — Cash Price & Total Payable £5495 | Customer Deposit NIL | 260 Weekly Payments of £21.13 — 5 Years 0%APR

09 REG Kia Ceed — Cash Price & Total Payable £4995 | Customer Deposit NIL | 260 Weekly Payments of £19.21 — 5 Years 0%APR

08-10 REG Renault Clio — From Only £4495

06-10 REG Renault Scenic — From Only £3995

08-09 REG Ford C-Max — From Only £5495

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60 REG Vauxhall Astra SRi Ex-Pack — Only £9995

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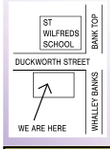

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